

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. With respect to the Examiner's rejection regarding the terms "substitute object" and "decentralized control centers," Applicant's respectfully traverse the rejection. Specifically, the terms "substitute object" and "decentralized control centers" are clearly understood as detailed throughout the specification (see, for example, Figure 1 and the corresponding portion of the specification). With respect to the term "the substitute information," the claim has been amended for proper antecedent basis.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Elestedt (US Pat. No. 5,740,046) in view of Hengstmengel (US Pat. No. 4,750,129). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Elestedt discloses a method to control moving units in a track, traffic system by radio communication cells 30 (see, for example, Fig. 3). Elestedt exemplifies the known method as described in the Background of the Invention in the instant application. Elestedt seeks to change out a control point of a unit during entering a subsequent (i.e. new) region. In order to accomplish this task, the vehicle (unit) or the control point must request the control center of the subsequent (new) control region to set up a link to the vehicle, or the vehicle itself must set up a link to the new control region. This requires the vehicle itself to have at least two radios or a two-channel cell system. In Elestedt, a two-channel cell system is used to this end (see, for example, col. 7, lines 24-32).

In the claimed invention, on the other hand, only one radio transmission channel, located between the mobile objects and the fixed-position objects, is necessary (see, for example, page 7, lines 24-32 of the original English specification). In order to implement this single transmission channel, the invention uses gateway computers between the mobile objects and the fixed-position objects. See, for example, claim 1 requiring communication between mobile objects and the fixed-position objects implemented via a gateway computer. Elestedt fails to disclose such gateway computers for communication between objects. Rather, as described above, Elestedt relies on a

two-channel cell system. Additionally, as noted by the Examiner, Elestedt fails to disclose decentralized control centers, as required by the claimed invention.

The Examiner cites Hengstmengel as disclosing decentralized control, in Fig. 1, referring to reference number 2, col. 4, lines 4-17. Although decentralized control is shown as an alternate embodiment in Hengstmengel, the reference fails to disclose gateway computers located between the mobile objects and the fixed-position objects, as required by the claimed invention. Hence, even a combination of references fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Since the recited structure is not disclosed by the applied references (either alone or in combination), claim 1 is patentable.

Claims 2-4 are allowable by the Examiner if rewritten in independent form to include any base and intervening claims.

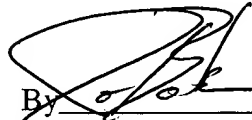
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.

449122001700. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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